



THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON

December 11, 2008

The Honorable Daniel K. Akaka
Chairman
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter of December 5, 2008, bringing to my attention the problem with compensation payments to survivors for the month of the veteran's death. I agree that this problem must be fixed.

The Veterans Benefits Administration developed the enclosed action plan to address the issue. As you indicate in your letter, there are a number of actions that must be taken to eliminate the confusion and hardship resulting from our current procedures and ensure this benefit is provided to all eligible beneficiaries. Because the corrective actions required are complex, we anticipate some modifications to the plan may be necessary as we proceed. However, we will keep you updated on our progress.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James B. Peake", is written over a large, stylized flourish that extends to the right and loops back under the signature.

James B. Peake, M.D.

Enclosure